

**Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease
Sale 170**

Public Hearings

Nuiqsut

1997

1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
2 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
3

4 OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT - PUBLIC HEARING
5 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
6 FOR BEAUFORT SEA PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE 170
7

8 Nuiqsut, Alaska
9 Tuesday, June 24, 1997
10 7:35 o'clock p.m.
11

12 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE PANEL MEMBERS

13 Mr. Bob Brock, Regional Supervisor for Leasing
14 and Environment

15 Ms. Cynthia Quarterman, Director, Minerals Management
16 Service, Washington, D.C.

17 Mr. John Goll, Regional Director

18 Mr. Rance Wall Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation

19 Mr. Jeff Walker, Regional Supervisor for Field Operations

20 Mr. Ray Emerson, Chief, Environmental Assessment Section

21 Ms. Phyllis Casey, EIS Coordinator

22 Mr. John Tremont

23 ALSO PRESENT:

24 Virgie Kasak, Inupiat Interpreter
25

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording. Transcript
produced by transcription service.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA - TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1997

(Tape No. 1 of 3)

(On record at 7:35 p.m.)

HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Good evening. My name is Bob Brock, and I am the Regional Supervisor for Leasing and Environment with the Outer Continental Shelf Office in Anchorage, Alaska.

We have a translator here with us tonight, Virgie Kasak, and she will be translating everything that I say into Inupiat and anybody talking in Inupiat, they'll -- she'll be translating it back into English.

And I guess that there are people here that would like a translator. Is that correct? Thomas, who is.....

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How's that?

HEARING OFFICER BROCK: There are people here that would like a translator?

(Indiscernible simultaneous speech)

HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. That's good. I'd -- first, before we get started tonight, I'd like to introduce a special guest we have with us, Ms. Cynthia Quarterman. The -- she is the Director, of the Bur- -- of the Minerals Management Service and from Washington, D.C. And she is here tonight to hear what you have to say firsthand. Cynthia, would you like to say a few words?

1 MS. QUARTERMAN: Well, I would just like to say I am
2 pleased to be able to come here. This is about as far away
3 from D.C. as we work. So this is very important, I think, for
4 the things that we do, the opinions that we make here -- to
5 hear the opinions that you have about -- particularly about the
6 way the sales should happen and go forward. So it's important
7 to hearing your comments here tonight.

8 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Virgie?

9 (Interpreter translating)

10 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: With me on the panel here at
11 the head table is our new Regional Director, John Goll and Jeff
12 Walker, who is the Regional Supervisor for Field Operations.
13 Mr. Ray Emerson, standing back over there is the chief of the
14 Environmental Assessment Section which is responsible for the
15 Environmental Impact Statement that we're reviewing tonight.
16 And Phyllis Casey -- where did you go, Phyllis? Oh, Phyllis is
17 back there -- is the Coordinator for this Environmental Impact
18 Statement.

19 I am also pleased to see tonight Diane Mayer from the
20 Governor's Office of Governmental Coordination with us over
21 here. And she has a staff here with her also tonight.

22 Virgie?

23 (Interpreter translating)

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: This is the first public
25 hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We are

1 also having a meeting tomorrow night in Kaktovik and this
2 Friday in Anchorage and then in Barrow on July the 10th. The
3 purpose of this meeting is to receive your views and comments
4 and suggestions on our Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
5 Copies were sent up to Nuiqsut in mid-May for your review. If
6 you haven't got a copy, there are plenty of copies on the back
7 table and so help yourself.

8 The Draft Impact Statement covers the area under
9 consideration for this proposed sale and is outlined in red on
10 the map over here to my left. It focuses on the near shore
11 blocks between the Colville River and just to this side of
12 Barter Island. It contains about 363 blocks or 1.7 million
13 acres and is located from three miles offshore to about 25
14 miles offshore.

15 As you probably know already, the State has
16 jurisdiction from the shoreline out to the three mile line.

17 Virgie?

18 (Interpreter translating)

19 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: The prop- -- this proposed
20 sale follows closely after Sale 144, which we had last
21 September. The sale -- except this sale is focused on a
22 smaller area, only in the Beaufort Sea, and only goes out to
23 about 25 miles. The draft EIS builds upon the information from
24 the final Environmental Impact Statement that we did for the
25 last sale, 144. And -- but it also includes any new

Sale 144

1 information that we might have ha- -- gotten since May of 1996.

2 This lease sale that we held last September offered
3 about 1,400 blocks, or almost just over seven million acres, of
4 which we only leased three -- 29 blocks, covering about a
5 hundred thousand acres. And those -- all those leases were
6 issued relatively close to shore, within about six miles of the
7 shoreline.

8 A well was drilled on one of the leases from that
9 sale. BP drilled the Liberty Exploration well in the -- last
10 winter, and that they announced the -- based on that -- on the
11 sale results, that Liberty may be a prospect for commercial.
12 BP has invited discussions -- has started its discussions
13 regarding permitting a development plan for the Liberty Project
14 which you see on that map. If we could show -- point it --
15 right in that area.

16 I didn't put a line there, but why don't you go
17 ahead.

18 (Interpreter translating)

19 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: After hearing some of the
20 concerns that you expressed last fall when we started the
21 process on 170, the MMS started the process of contracting a
22 four year bowhead whale feeding study in the eastern Beaufort
23 Sea area to update the scientific and traditional information
24 that we presently have.

25 We are presently reviewing the proposals and expect

1 to award that contract by the end of July. The North Slope
2 Borough and The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission participated
3 in the design of that study, and we look forward to your --
4 theirs and your continued assistance in reviewing the reports
5 that come forth out of that study. So we'll be back in touch
6 on that. Okay.

7 (Interpreter translating)

8 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: This Draft EIS, Sale 170,
9 covers the issues raised by you and other communities during the
10 scoping meeting in here, Kaktovik, Barrow, and Anchorage last
11 winter. The EIS reflects what we have gained from your
12 comments and suggestions and from previous sales. We want to
13 be sure we have included the traditional knowledge that you
14 have shared with us.

15 We have included all of the mitigation, all of the
16 requirements on the oil companies that the Borough and the AEWC
17 helped developed for the last sale, 144. This includes
18 provisions to limit conflicts between oil and gas activities
19 and the bowhead whale hunters. And the bow- -- it also
20 includes a bowhead whale monitoring plan in which the AEWC or
21 the North Slope -- or a North Slope Borough representative can
22 participate.

23 We are also aware of the concerns that you presented
24 to the state on the noise disturbance and space use conflicts
25 and have shown those areas on the -- in the yellow blobs on the

1 map.

2 I hope your comments that you say tonight will cover
3 the specific cur- -- concerns you have in those areas, because
4 that information is not in this present Draft Environmental
5 Impact Statement.

6 Virgie?

7 (Interpreter translating)

8 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: We have also established a
9 special advisory committee for this sale, which will meet in
10 early August with us to review the comments that we receive and
11 determine whether any new issues or requirements may be needed.
12 Members from the North Slope and -- North Slope Borough and the
13 communities have been included. Thomas Napageak is the -- is a
14 member of that committee. Burton Rexford from Barrow is on
15 that committee and Fenton Rexford from Kaktovik. So we have
16 three representatives from this general area on that committee.

17 The State, the industry, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
18 or -- yeah, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National
19 Marine Fisheries Service are also represented.

20 Now, the -- all comments from this hearing or meeting
21 are being recorded. Rich Carl will provide a complete
22 transcript of all the public hearings. You can obtain copies
23 of this transcript from the Executary Court Reporting Service.
24 The primary purpose is to be insure to im- -- we're out to
25 improve the quality of the Impact Statement from your comments

1 so they can be included in the final Environmental Impact
2 Statement.

3 Virgie?

4 (Interpreter translating)

5 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: This meeting, as we have done
6 before, will be more of a dialogue, back and forth. We will
7 respond to questions as long as we don't distract from the
8 point that you are trying to make.

9 We are interested in your views on this Environmental
10 Impact Statement and on this proposed sale. So we will do
11 everything we can to insure you have a good understanding of
12 what our program is and that we understand your comments.

13 The comment period for this document closes July
14 18th, 1997. Until that time, MMS will accept written comments
15 from anybody who would prefer to make written comments rather
16 than oral comments or in addition to their oral comments. All
17 written comments should be sent to MMS at 949 East 36th Avenue,
18 Room 308, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. The comment period closes
19 July 18th.

20 We will keep a written record of who is here and who
21 wishes to testify. When you -- when we start calling you,
22 please come up to the microphone sitting there on the end of
23 that table and speak directly into the mike. To be sure that
24 we have your name, please spell it for us so that we don't --
25 we have an accurate recording.

1 Virgie.

2 (Interpreter translating)

3 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. We'll get started now.
4 And who would like to be the first to make a comment?

5 (Interpreter translating)

6 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MR. THOMAS NAPAGEAK

7 BY MR. NAPAGEAK:

8 My name is Thomas Napageak. I don't have much to say
9 and nothing written at this time because the written statements
10 have already been forwarded to your department.

11 And just briefly, going over your draft, on the
12 mitigation measures, you -- you said mitigating measures are
13 assumed. That sort of language I need to get a clarification
14 on. It's not something that I would think that is very strong
15 coming from you saying "I assume". The mitigation measures
16 should be firm languages.

17 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: What we mean by that is
18 they're is assumed -- they are part of the proposal. There
19 would have to be a decision made to take them away from that.
20 So that's the reason I -- but we can -- I understand what
21 you're saying. We can make that a stronger wording. But that
22 is part of the proposal.

23 BY MR. NAPAGEAK (Resuming):

24 (Speaking in Inupiat.) I'd like to brief them a
25 little bit about how things have been going for proposed.

1 (Speaking in Inupiat.) Let me talk a little bit on that.

2 I was very glad when you called me up to be part of
3 the committee that you were forming because of the fact that
4 hearing a lot of testimonies that you guys were coming, get the
5 people riled up. Let them make testimonies but then go ahead
6 and issue permits without fully identifying what they had said
7 in their testimonies. And I -- with this opportunity, that
8 gives me a chance to sit with the decision-makers to put a
9 proper EIS together. I think you very much, Mr. Brock.

10 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. We appreciate
11 your efforts.

12 MR. GOLL: May I ask a question?

13 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thomas?

14 MR. GOLL: Thomas. Yes. Could you give a summary of
15 what you were saying, so we.....

16 MR. NAPAGEAK: That's exactly what I was saying.

17 MR. GOLL: Okay.

18 (Laughter)

19 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Anybody else?

20 MR. NUKAPIGAK: I have a couple questions.....

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: You bet.

22 MR. NUKAPIGAK:I would like to ask you.

23 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MR. ISAAC NUKAPIGAK

24 BY MR. NUKAPIGAK:

25 For the record, my name is Isaac Nukapigak, and also

1 for Planning Commission for Nuiqsut. In just going over your
2 draft I noticed that during the scoping meeting that it was,
3 you know, here. That this community of Nuiqsut had already had
4 all asked for a deferral.

5 So -- and I was just going over looking at your draft
6 and I noticed that on Section 1.6, I see that it's not
7 considered asked, since I see that our request for deferral
8 is -- that's not considered. Because this right here, the
9 lease sells lots within the 50 mile radius of our hunting
10 grounds, which is Kuvlum and Colville Island.

11 I would like to know why it's not being put in this
12 draft EIS by the MMS, because it's been said all along, during
13 the scoping meeting very clearly that this community had
14 requested a deferral area in two other areas that -- where I'm
15 talking about. The Cross Island deferral area was one of the
16 issues that needs to be considered strongly to be deferred
17 (sic) from the lease sale 170. That's going to be -- because
18 knowing that is going to affect our marine hunting area where
19 this community depend on.

20 Another issue that -- another deferral area that
21 was -- that we have stated during the scoping meetings was the
22 Colville Delta area deferral. Knowing that there's different
23 species of -- different habitats of fish that span during --
24 that stays in when -- in our area has been -- apparently the
25 ARCO has hired a biology crew to study the Colville, after the

1 discovery at Alpine. They had identified 23 species of fish
2 that concentrate in the Colville area. And that's another
3 issue that we have been requesting the -- on the deferral list.

4 And I would like to know why the MMS have not
5 considered honoring our requests on the Nuiqsut deferral.

6 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Do you want to answer that,
7 Thomas Napageak?

8 MR. NAPAGEAK: Let -- make your answers now. I'll
9 respond when I need.

10 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Well, we had a meeting af- --
11 we didn't settle on a deferral area at the meeting up here. We
12 had another meeting with Thomas Napageak, and we came to the
13 conclusion it would be better to work with mitigation measures
14 than it would be to try to analyze a deferral area. And we
15 thought that that would be a better solution in the long run.

16 MR. NAPAGEAK: (Translating into Inupiat.)

17 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Another issue that I would like to
18 bring out, that I notice that has been mentioned in the past
19 during the scoping meeting was the impact. And I was just
20 going over some of the crap and never did see the requests --
21 the -- of any source of impact onto the community. But knowing
22 that this community is the one that's going to be most impacted
23 on this lease sale 170.

24 And I would like to see that the federal government
25 or the lessees to set up a impact fronts that this community

1 needs to utilize.

2 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Yeah. I can't disagree with
3 you. But there is a law that says that the money that goes
4 from the lease sale goes directly into the fund. The only
5 thing that doesn't go into the treasury of the United States.
6 We don't have the authority to put it into some place else.

7 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Well, you have.....

8 MR. GOLL: The state gets part of it.

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: You have a representative
10 from Washington, D.C., that can send a message to the people up
11 there that this issue needs to be put in.

12 MR. GOLL: With the -- enable to get revenue sharing
13 or impact assistance, that would take an Act of Congress to do
14 that. Our OCS Policy Committee, which includes representatives
15 from all the states.....

16 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Well, somewhere -- somewhere, the
17 fuel has to crack.

18 MR. GOLL: We have a subcommittee with our OCS Policy
19 Committee that is trying to put together information on that
20 that we can forward to Congress to essentially try to say if,
21 like you say, you know, the nut can be cracked.

22 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Yeah, the nut can be cracked there
23 somewhere. Because this community is just looking at the Lease
24 Sale 170 proposal. This community here is the one that is
25 going to be mainly impacted very strongly. We've been impacted

1 if there's a lease sale less than whole. And I think it's
2 about time that there is a sale given, this management service
3 needs to consider is setting up an impact that's where our
4 community can utilize. Possibly the revenue declining with the
5 borough cannot provide any of these services anymore. We're
6 going to have to look for some alternative funds to be able to
7 provide some of these services. So I just would like to bring
8 that up to you.

9 MR. GOLL: We would love to do that.

10 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Do you think.....

11 MR. GOLL: But it is beyond our power. But if -- we
12 would need Congress. Jerome Selby from Kodiak is on the Policy
13 Committee -- subcommittee again. They -- that is one effort
14 that, you know, we're going to try to get people's attention,
15 you know, exactly what you're telling.

16 MR. NAPAGEAK: (Translating into Inupiat.) I want to
17 clear up, too. Tom, Roman and I were really strong on that
18 same issue you were talking about.

19 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Definitely.

20 MR. NAPAGEAK: Impact one. (Translating into
21 Inupiat.) But we are fortunate that we have state government
22 aides here today. Because you see, it is about state and this
23 community, still have honey buckets, no running waters -- no
24 adequate running waters. And here there is subsistence flat
25 areas are just being pulled out and sold at random to all

1 companies. Big funds go to the federal government. What about
2 the local people? I mean, the people that reside here, the
3 people that will be here when all industry is gone.

4 I mean, are we going to have to be on honey buckets
5 and three dollars a gallon to heat our homes for heating fuel,
6 when there is alpine big development. They don't know what
7 they're going to -- they're telling us no money.

8 I mean, it gets to be a heartache, a headache,
9 sleepless nights.

10 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: I would like to point out
11 that the area from three miles to six miles off shore is
12 referred to in the Act as the 8G zone. And the -- any monies
13 that is received by the federal government in that 8G zone, the
14 state gets 27 percent. So there is a direct input to the
15 state.

16 Now, that money does not necessarily directly come to
17 the North Slope -- anybody on the North Slope. But there is --
18 the state does get some part of a revenue sharing from this.
19 So that -- you can talk to your representative about that, too,
20 so.....

21 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MS. LUCY AHVAKANA

22 BY MS. AHVAKANA:

23 I can't speak very good English. I never been
24 educated. I learned by ear everything (indiscernible) to Jones
25 Island when I was three months old. I lived there seven years.

1 And I moved to mainland and I lived growing up four years
2 before I move out again. I never had a chance to educate. My
3 family was trappers. There was no money, no dollars, no ten
4 dollars. All we had was fur. And we lived in igloo. I
5 learned how to survive rough life.

6 When we were kids, our grandma, my Eskimo father and
7 my stepfather and a girl trapping, we also feel blessed with
8 ourselves. They took the stocking. And that's how that -- we
9 live in igloos and we survived. We enjoy country. There was
10 few people there and there from Barr Island to -- all our lives
11 our ancestors traveled back and forth up to Porter and up to
12 Inland. That's what our ancestors told us.

13 And first oil companies came up, I heard they were
14 telling my stepdad. It was, 'Oh, how we know people.'
15 (Speaking in Inupiat.) That's where he grew up in that Prudhoe
16 Bay. They got all houses up there. Their house was already up
17 there.

18 When I was married to my first husband, we had a
19 trading post in Foggy Island and Beach Pine, my first husband
20 and I. We always go back and forth, trade, foxes, furnishing
21 the food for Eskimos. Trappers live here. All of us -- a lot
22 of us didn't get a chance to go to school. No school up here.
23 You -- BIA didn't have enough money to put a school up here.
24 They were trying to.

25 And then we heard this oil company is coming. I

1 moved to Barrow and these expeditions -- these looking for oil,
2 Navys came. We went to Barrow. My husband said I had to go to
3 Barrow to get my kids to school. So when we went there, we saw
4 a bunch of barges. I thought it was Japanese invaded the
5 Barrow. We were scared. And my stepdad went to shore. They
6 seemed peaceful. We asked them, 'What's going on?' The Navy's
7 up here. They are looking for oil 1945. There were eleven
8 barges. I know that Captain John ^{Backlund} Bablin, Sr., was the
9 navigator for them. I moved to Barrow at that time.

10 And they bring liquor. Everybody start to get drunk
11 and bring Dr. Seinfeld had a meeting with us. We got some
12 newcomers. You guys have to be -- wake up, careful. They're
13 going to bring sickness. They're going to bring liquor.
14 They're going to bring problem. Always do that in a nation
15 when they have oil companies come. So we were aware of that --
16 things going to come. That's what happened to Barrow.

17 Our young people change right now. You can't even
18 discipline them. They change. They throw coming all kinds of
19 stuff -- junk coming in.

20 So anyway, we got this oil company now, after we go
21 through those -- the liquor and the junk and problems some
22 more, oil companies. And our ancestors depending on the game
23 yet.

24 When I worked at Prudhoe, I work with food BB six and
25 a half years. Charlie work with Mike Hansuper (ph). He was a

1 nice person. I get along with any damn people, they treat me
2 nice.

3 And they were blooming then. And when the seismic
4 first came, they were (indiscernible) so much, they contaminate
5 the lake. They left their trash everywhere. And the cleanup
6 crew clean all that. They were -- really have a good time.

7 And when they put those things on the -- you know,
8 those roads to the island?

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Oh, causeway.

10 BY MS. AHVAKANA (Resuming):

11 One summer we were up there in Beach Pine, no fish.
12 See they travel on that lagoon, back and forth, those fish, you
13 see. And they close the runway for the fish. We didn't catch
14 hardly any fish that summer. And we said, "Maybe no more fish.
15 Maybe they contaminated that, because that lagoon for the farm,
16 some of those fish, we got white fish, herring and that left
17 salmon, few king, small king. That summer, no fish. We were
18 worried. I thought maybe oil companies spill the oil that
19 killed them all.

20 Next summer, they -- when they quit confusing so
21 much, they start to go around channel, come around. And then
22 gradually, slowly, fish come. That's why from ancestors way
23 back from our ancestors, our people living on the land and
24 disturb them. That's what we worried about.

25 I want to tell you something else. Us Eskimos can't

1 go to United States headquarters trying to take over their
2 land. We respect them. We very much respect them, because
3 they bought Alaska from Russia. I think they rescued us.
4 Whoever bought that Alaska, I honor him. I think him all the
5 time. But our headquarters, that guy, when he bought it, he
6 put a constitution not molesting the Eskimos and Indians, for I
7 bought the land for them. They still trying to damage our food
8 and livelihoods.

9 See, right here, I come here, I went to store. I buy
10 15 gallon of gasoline, fifty dollars. Here, that oil up there
11 and blooming and pumping every day and that cash smoke away,
12 you know. We feel helpless.

13 I'm 77 years old now. I never got a chance to go to
14 school. Every word of English I learned by ear. Because of
15 our livelihood, my parents were sitting up here wood and a lot
16 of hot water. Barrow didn't have no wood. They sweat it out.
17 Most of them educated. That's how we built this North Slope,
18 our ancestors, you know. That's why they are concerned. These
19 people promised very much concerned. You telling the truth.

20 And while I was up there, I had a friend, he's with
21 Environmental. He come from Fairbanks. He always let me meet
22 him when they had meeting about the environmental. He told me,
23 those manmade islands, if something goes wrong underneath, how
24 many feet is that ice thick anyway, three, four, five feet,
25 something like that?

1 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Or more.

2 BY MS. AHVAKANA (Resuming):

3 He said, 'Lucy, it's not guaranteed.' If something
4 happened to that oil rig middle of winter, when it's still,
5 it's going to stick that ice underneath and kill most of the
6 animals. It's scary. That's why these people promise, really
7 fighting for us.

8 We don't hate our headquarters, our headquarters,
9 United States. We respect them, you know, us Eskimos. But we
10 try to protect our land. That's what they trying to do in
11 Nuiqsut.

12 Every time I go to a meeting, once in awhile when I'm
13 here, I always hear, I always gone there, I always in my
14 homestead. But you know, every time I go to meetings, after
15 they make plans what they're going to do they meet with us,
16 they let us talk. And when they turn around, they do it
17 anyway.

18 I'm not mad at you. They tried to -- came, too.
19 Everybody tried to came. We tried to came and protect our
20 land, you know, our livelihood. We love meat. We can't live
21 on that oily food all the time, especially me. Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

23 MS. NUKAPIGAK: My name is Ruth Nukapigak. (Speaking
24 in Inupiat).

25 BY INTERPRETER: First she says she wants to ask a

1 question. Is this first and the last you are coming?

2 (Laughter)

3 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: I don't know how to answer
4 that. I mean, if I say "no", she might not talk if I say it.
5 But I -- no, we -- we're up here two, three times a year. We
6 come up every time there is a public comment that we -- or
7 sometimes in between.

8 MR. GOLL: We do understand we need to be welcome by
9 the community before we come, though.

10 MS. NUKAPIGAK: (Speaking in Inupiat.)

11 MS. KASAK: They were asking us, we were writing them
12 for her. You might want put them in writing.

13 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Pardon me?

14 MS. KASAK: They were asking if we were going to put
15 them in writing. I told them I was writing what you were
16 saying. Oh, that?

17 MR. GOLL: What we may also try to do is to get a
18 translation later, you know, based on the tape. But if you can
19 give a summary of what she was saying.

20 (Side conversation)

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Well, did you say you wanted
22 a five-minute break?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. They wanted a break.

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. Let's have a five-
25 minute break.

1 (Off record at 8:55 p.m.)

2 (Tape Change - Tape No. 2 of 3)

3 (On record at 9:02 p.m.)

4 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Can you give us a summary of
5 what she said?

6 MS. KASAK: (Translating Ms. Nukapigak's statement.)
7 Okay. I am going to talk in Inupiat.

8 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MS. RUTH NUKAPIGAK

9 BY MS. NUKAPIGAK:

10 She always come to the meeting and she say she saw
11 some of you for the first time. And she says there is no
12 caribou this year. And the years past there's hardly any
13 caribou anymore. Why?

14 As a Eskimo, she lived here since she was a child and
15 she's worried about the fish -- there will be any fish, seal,
16 bearded seal. And they do seismic on the ocean, she's worried
17 about the food for the whales in the ocean. She's afraid if
18 their food will be damaged. The fish are coming in right now
19 from the ocean. And in the fall, the fish will be going out.

20 And the meat that we buy from the store is real
21 expensive. And she said she likes to hunt fish and birds. And
22 there's lots of birds at Oliktok.

23 And finally, the caribou got here a couple days ago.
24 And she's worried about our caribou, fish. We can't survive
25 only with whale. And she doesn't want our food damaged or the

1 oil or gas leaks spoil or kill our food.

2 And in wintertime, we use the ice roads. They use
3 water from the lake where the fish are. And she's really
4 wor- -- and she is really concerned about fish, caribou and the
5 whale. Thank you. Ruth Nukapigak.

6 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Somebody started
7 up a minute ago. Oh, there, yes.

8 MR. AKPIK: Welcome, Mr. Brock.

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

10 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MR. JOSEPH AKPIK

11 BY MR. AKPIK:

12 A representative from Tony Knowles' Office. My name
13 is Joseph Akpik. I don't have much to say, but I was reading
14 on this MMS working to combine traditional knowledge and
15 Western science. I would recommend that this would be
16 committed to reality instead of being as a focus, because I
17 think the -- I believe this is a very high step in order to get
18 this communication gap between our people and your office in
19 regards to these lease sales.

20 So I believe this is part of a very good approach
21 here on this traditional knowledge, which I believe would be
22 more vital in order to iron out some of these problems in
23 rela- -- regarding the environmental, culture awareness and all
24 of these issues that have to be brought out.

25 So I would highly recommend that this would come into

1 more incorporated in a manner where several of our people would
2 be involved in incorporating this traditional knowledge and
3 Western science. This is very good issue that I'm reading
4 through it. And how do we use traditional knowledge in
5 decision process. And I do believe that we would need -- you
6 would need our people, which is us, in order to hear us out and
7 there would be no conflict between the groups and such.

8 And I would like to extend this to Tony Knowles'
9 office too, this -- part of this traditional knowledge you
10 brought to me in the -- on a state level.

11 So if you are going to further incorporate this, then
12 I would recommend that some of our people would be involved.

13 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Do you have a suggestion on
14 what you mean -- what -- how they would do that? What -- in
15 other words, do you have an idea how you would like to see it
16 work?

17 MR. AKPIK: On -- on firs- -- on one instance there
18 would be -- on this Cisco fish migration, there would have to
19 be more of a study on our Cisco fish, because that's what I --
20 we really rely on Kakta (ph) up along the coast. So I think
21 there should be very good study on the fisheries study, in
22 regards -- because this Liberty Prospect that was being drilled
23 last winter, I don't know whether it would impact our Cisco
24 fish this coming season, this coming fall, this winter. So I
25 would highly recommend that we do a very close study on our

1 fishery in regards to this sale 170.

2 MR. GOLL: If I could ask a question on the Liberty.
3 As I think Lucy said earlier, there was a concern on the
4 causeways. Would that be the concern with regard to Liberty?

5 MR. AKPIK: No, I'm talking about the drilling fluid
6 that would be disposed in with the -- out to the sea. I don't
7 know where they were disposing drilling fluid, they use a
8 cutting fluid. That's what the most thing that would probably
9 impact our Cisco fish.

10 BY MR. AKPIK (Resuming):

11 As I have seen it out at Endicott where they have
12 extracted -- they used drilling fluid out in the -- in the sea.
13 This is what I'm really concerned about is our fish -- fishery,
14 because it might contaminate the fish. And that would bring,
15 probably, cancer causes toward our people that we consume that
16 very fish. That's one of the things I'm really concerned
17 about.

18 And there's some development going on that we have
19 this west- -- north-northeast westerly prevailing wind and
20 coming across our land where it would affect our caribou. I
21 think this -- I have the testimony prior before one of our
22 meetings on the public hearings on this, then I will again
23 bring up this hydrocarbon fallout that would contaminate our
24 caribou and calving area. So this is some of the things that I
25 would like -- yes.

1 MR. GOLL: If I could make a comment on your -- the
2 comment about including traditional knowledge and so on in
3 decisions. Again, what we're hoping with that advisory
4 committee that we mentioned earlier, that Thomas Napageak is
5 part of, and you know, Representative Burton -- Rexford and
6 Fenton, that through that we'll be able to hopefully, you know,
7 do what you're talking about of involving them as we're trying
8 to decide what the next step is with this document and you
9 know, alternatives for Sale 170.

10 We are -- this is new to us, too. So, you know,
11 we're going to be learning together if this, you know, will
12 work. You know, we hope that it does and that, you know,
13 again, all the parties sitting at the table be able to talk
14 through what, you know, what might happen here or with other
15 things, again with regard to alternatives and mitigation, you
16 know, requirements.

17 MR. AKPIK: Okay. Yeah, the reason.....

18 MR. GOLL: So we're really trying to do what you're
19 suggesting.

20 MR. AKPIK: Yeah. The reason why I suggested that
21 part of our people be involved in it is on the first paragraph
22 it says, "Alaska Region brought together representatives from
23 the Forest Service, National Marine Ser- -- Fisheries Services,
24 National Park Services, National Biological Survey, and Bureau
25 of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management. If they'd

1 involve some of our organizational groups here.

2 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Right. That was the -- let
3 me just explain what that was. That was our very first
4 traditional knowledge meeting. We were trying -- at that
5 meeting, we were trying to get a handle on how these other
6 agencies define traditional knowledge. We were -- in other
7 words, we wanted to -- when we talked -- called up somebody to
8 get that informa- -- what information they had, we wanted to be
9 sure we were all talking the same language.

10 So -- but we had a meeting amongst the agencies to
11 find out what kind of a base that they use to gain this
12 knowledge and found out that there wasn't a lot of that. So --
13 but that was the reason for that meeting was to find out what
14 everybody else was doing.

15 And so from that point on, we have -- well, for an
16 example, one of the things we do in our EIS is we send the
17 whaling section of the EIS and the social culture section of
18 the EIS up to the North Slope Borough and they review that for
19 traditional knowledge.

20 Now, I believe we al- -- Ray, didn't we send down
21 here to Nuiqsut to somebody else? We sent it to -- up to the
22 North Slope Borough, I thought we -- what?

23 (Side comment)

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: But if you will assist us in
25 helping identify somebody. We didn't send the caribou section

1 here. And that would have been a good -- if you could help us
2 identify somebody that we could send that section to, we would
3 be glad to do that because we're trying to incorporate that
4 traditional knowledge into that section of the EIS.

5 And we don't always have it to put it in there.
6 We've tried real hard to get it in the whaling and in the
7 social culture part. But something like the caribou we
8 probably have not gotten it into the EIS like is available out
9 there. So if you could help us identify somebody that could
10 review it for that aspect, we will get a copy of that section
11 sent out.

12 MR. AKPIK: Okay.

13 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Because we're really working
14 towards that group. And -- but what we were trying to do at
15 that very first meeting was just find out what the other
16 agencies were doing. And now we've expanded that to some
17 other -- a lighter group each time.

18 MR. AKPIK: Very good. Thank you so much.

19 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

20 MR. GOLL: Thank you.

21 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MS. ROSEMARY AHTUANGARUAK

22 BY MS. AHTUANGARUAK:

23 Hello. My name is Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak, A-h-t-u-
24 a-n-g-a-r-u-a-k. I'm a resident of Nuiqsut.

25 I have been involved with many of these discussions

1 of the last year and a half. There have been other discussions
2 in the previous sales with other people that have stated a lot
3 of needed information and a lot of that is included in here.

4 I do not see very much of what we have discussed
5 about in all of these meetings in here. I do understand what
6 you're saying trying to deal with the mitigation matters. But
7 there are only three individuals dealing with the livelihood of
8 all of this community, and that, I do not feel is appropriate
9 in order to get all of the viewpoints together.

10 These type of meetings are important. We do see a
11 lot of information, but where is it? I've spent so many hours
12 coming to these meetings. And I'm not paid for any of this.
13 You want us to work with you, but you haven't hired anybody in
14 this community to do this local work.

15 How many individuals do you have on your division
16 outside of this area? How about your division or your division
17 or all of your division? There are people working to make
18 decisions about that land. That land is what I depend on to
19 feed my family.

20 The way the work comes and goes up on the slope, it
21 changes. The people that come and go changes. There is no
22 consistency. But one person puts in a plan -- it's put into a
23 plan and used to get what you want to do in that land. But it
24 is not put here where we can utilize it and say, 'Hey, you're
25 not doing this right.'

1 There has been many problems with various
2 developments. And there is byproducts left all around, areas
3 where you have worked and got your oil and it's left over.

4 We go out and we travel around our land. We go
5 hunting in this land. The by-products of these developments
6 are definitely hurting us. We state that. But yet, in your
7 book it says it's not to a level that's acknowledged as being
8 harmful. Well, we are definitely being harmed by this
9 development.

10 Many of our people get sick a lot easier than they
11 used to. I wish we had the local resources to get the studies
12 done to document what isn't hurt. We don't have a staff to go
13 in to look at the numbers and give them to you so you can say,
14 but these are other factors that affect it. It's not just this
15 development.

16 You have options listed in the front of the book; the
17 option of no development in this area is the best option. Our
18 people will continue to have to deal with what's already
19 occurred, but sooner or later one of those wells is going to go
20 down. Just like a plane can go down anywhere.

21 So far things have been lucky, but there have been
22 problems. So far they've been hitting pretty good. We cannot
23 accept one well being wrong and a leakage occurring.

24 You can say in your book their effects will be one
25 year. No, it will not. They will be there for a longer time

1 than one year. It will affect us until we cannot live here.
2 That's not acceptable. We will want and do everything we can
3 to stay in this land. But if every resource that we rely on is
4 erased because of a spill, we have no choice but to leave.

5 Where are your stipulations and mitigation measures
6 that will say you will help us relocate to an area that is not
7 damaged and then relocate us back when the land is better?
8 There is nothing like that.

9 I can't continue to come and come and come and talk
10 about all these things. You get frustrated. We go to how many
11 meetings every month about all this stuff. We are pulled in so
12 many different directions because there is too many agencies
13 dealing with this. But there is nobody here dealing with it.
14 That's not acceptable. Take that back to wherever you need it
15 and get those people here working to help us stop the damage
16 that has been occurring and will continue to occur with these
17 developments.

18 Everyone that works with this comes and then go.
19 They're so glad when their shift is over and they're gone. So
20 when our shift is over, this is where we come; a few miles away
21 from where this development is occurring.

22 We don't have control of how things are done. You've
23 got so many different contractors that are involved with it.
24 We have to work too many people, way too many. But yet, stuff
25 that we've met with, you here how many times? Where is it?

1 Where?

2 You want us to keep coming to these meetings, it
3 meets your needs to get the development here. It hasn't met
4 our needs. It's very frustrating to deal with this.

5 I speak up and I say it. I wish many more of our
6 people could come up here and say it. Many of our people
7 haven't gone south and gone to school and learned to get strong
8 to voice what's wrong. We do talk amongst ourselves. We have
9 to communicate with one another. We help our families raise
10 our families. We help our families feed each other. Not
11 anything we will have will save us when that oil starts
12 spilling.

13 We need what the Lord has given to us in this land.
14 We don't need those jobs that are out there. The Lord gave us
15 the ability to go out and gain what we have already available
16 to us. Your developments out there are affecting us greatly.
17 We have to keep coming and talking to you about problems that
18 occur, just for you to go and fix it. When you come back to
19 us, "Yeah, we did that." But you didn't identify it as a
20 problem, we did.

21 We keep saying, your causeways are affecting us. So
22 just start from those open burns are affecting us. We have a
23 problem with upper respiratory infections here. People get
24 sick real fast now. It didn't use to be that way. Maybe it's
25 because the powder that's released is being ingested and the

1 exertion that we have in our cold environment affects the way
2 that you're able to fight off the common cold or that
3 pneumonia. I don't know what the details there is. But it's
4 definitely a problem.

5 We need to work together and get these ideas out.
6 But we have done many of these meetings. How many reports go
7 through? People come in and do their studies. How many times
8 we come and talk about these studies? Doesn't do us any good.

9 You wonder why many more people aren't here? They've
10 been coming. Your numbers show it. If you got a list over the
11 last how many years Prudhoe Bay and everything has been
12 developed out there, you would see every one of our members in
13 this community have been on that list at some time or another.

14 But it gets so frustrating when you come, you talk,
15 you agree to work with us, to see nothing come of it. Your
16 sale, it was a proposed sale. Now, it's a sale that we're
17 going to have to deal with. But that's our village listed
18 there. We are the ones that are going to be affected, yet we
19 keep coming to these meetings to meet your needs.

20 Yes, you come here and deal with these different
21 things. Yes, you do all these things that are listed here.
22 And it meets your needs. It stops -- states in this paper and
23 that other one I was reading about all these different things
24 that you have done, which is important. All the hard work that
25 your office put in here is very important. But a lot of the

1 things we have said is not here. There is more that should be
2 here.

3 Another issue that came through in -- when I was
4 looking through this real quick was the social effect. The
5 changes and the increase of our graveyard is a direct effect of
6 Prudhoe Bay. All of those markers should be for elders that
7 died of old age. Look, and we have lost so many young people.
8 Instead, we go to trying to stop this development. It is
9 killing our people. We can't deal with some of these deaths,
10 and yet, more meetings, more meetings, more discussions.

11 We try to do what's necessary to protect what we need
12 because we know, you're going to get on a plane and you'll be
13 gone. You'll be back in a few months for another little meeting
14 and you'll be gone.

15 But when things don't work out and our families
16 cannot hunt, we lose a part of ourselves that can't be
17 replaced. When you can't provide for your families from the
18 land, you are not a provider for your family. When you see
19 your kids hurting because they don't have good food,
20 traditional food to eat, it's so painful. You get tired of
21 seeing that pain.

22 This year the caribou were gone. We have seen so
23 many problems because the people couldn't provide for
24 themselves. These developments on the land and on the ocean
25 are going to affect how we feed our families. We can't deal

1 with that.

2 We have shown that we start abusing other things,
3 each other, drugs, whatever, when we can't meet our families'
4 needs. We could before all of these wells and everything were
5 here. We fed our families from what was there because there
6 was no one else to give it to us. We had no money to go buy it
7 from the stores. Now some people have jobs and they can buy a
8 lot of different things. But we're also tied to that stupid
9 clock. We need that 40 hours so we can go buy that motor gas,
10 because we can't take the time when the caribou are in our back
11 yard to go get it. We're tied to our stupid clock.

12 Some of these things are related to modern science.
13 You're going to have things like this happen. But all of the
14 demands that are put upon us because of these stupid wells for
15 other people to meet needs.

16 You have documented really well what they have to do
17 to meet the needs. What good does it do us. What good does it
18 do us? What kind of services are given to us to help us in the
19 downfall? Not much. There's a lot of problems that occur when
20 the oil companies are gone and the current, heavy focus of
21 these short-term jobs are gone. We still have to pay the bill
22 year around. Just because the oil company shuts down and takes
23 off with the job, they go to other areas, warmer climates, we
24 stay here. We still have a need on that stupid dollar to get
25 that stupid gas so we can get to our animals because we don't

1 have the time to take it when they're with us.

2 It's not acceptable. The jobs you create are not
3 ones we can utilize. You put us -- we are -- have to go on
4 these schedules that take us away from our families. Yeah,
5 that's a great job. You can go to Prudhoe Bay and work, but
6 you have to be gone from your family to do it. And you have to
7 miss the chance to get the traditional resources when they're
8 here. You come back you've only got a few days to do that.
9 Well if Mother Nature says you're not going to do it that day,
10 then that's what happens. You miss out. You don't get that
11 chance to put the caribou away.

12 This village suffered when we had no caribou. This
13 village suffered when we could not whale. We continue to
14 suffer when the fish are affected by your development and we
15 say there's a problem, but yet the representatives that come
16 and say, "Well, we've done studies". Well, those studies don't
17 feed my kids or anybody else's kids.

18 We've been lucky in my family to have somebody
19 working year around. Some of these families don't have that.
20 We suffer.

21 Well, I'm tired of suffering just to see all this
22 happen anyway. We really would be better off not to go ahead
23 with this sale, because we are in that area along with Kaktovik
24 and seeing the ones that will be hurt when something goes
25 wrong. Sooner or later there's going to be that spill.

1 We want to stay here. We don't want to leave. God
2 gave us a good country. What's happening out there is causing
3 problems here. We'll continue to state it. Our caribou are
4 going through stress. They're getting sick. We had poor
5 calving. The moose were affected. The fish were affected. But
6 what good does it do coming here and talk like this? These
7 people have been around here longer than I have. They know
8 what the land gave us. They know where it gave it. They know
9 that that darn gas was out there anyway. They know oil was out
10 there anyway. We tried to hold it off as best we could. It's
11 here now. We're stuck with it.

12 It's not acceptable to allow one drop to occur in our
13 waters. That we need that food. We don't want food that's
14 going to be damaged for how many years. We can't afford it.

15 In order for us to be -- remain as a community in
16 Nuiqsut, we cannot have a spill. But that ice is not stable.
17 All of your studies you have done will help sometimes. But
18 sooner or later one time will occur. Don't develop in our
19 area. Don't do that.

20 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Anybody else?

21 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MR. MARK AHMAKAK

22 BY MR. AHMAKAK:

23 My name is Mark Ahmakak. I'm listed in one of
24 your -- in the back pages there since the year '82. It is
25 becoming more difficult to do some lip service here to bureau

1 agencies. However, in one of your statements here, increase
2 federal revenue-sharing to show -- which we call impact funds,
3 on this -- an extension to Governor Knowles' office.

4 This community will be and always has been impacted.
5 It's going to be impacted more to the Alpine and then more
6 activities on OCS. My feeling now up to this date is I've been
7 asking a lot of these public testimony, starting from Barrow
8 before I moved here, my concentration now -- nowadays is to
9 have this community benefit from these lease sales, whether
10 they be on land or the ocean.

11 However, the time has come when this community has at
12 various times fight for their rightful impact points. The
13 state may allocate money for the North Slope Borough or other
14 boroughs within the state, however, our community always have
15 to fight and battle for their impact funds or whether it's
16 revenue sharing when the time comes for the city to turn their
17 wish list to the state. We don't exactly get what we ask for,
18 but the same with the North Slope Borough, we don't exactly get
19 what we want. There's always the subject of money.

20 In order to proceed as a community, the most impacted
21 community; we are the ones that are being studied on. We are
22 the ones that live here. We still haven't even begun to feel
23 the impacts of Alpine yet and that's yet to come.

24 Looking at the long run of it, this community should
25 be given its rightful voice in securing some of these rightful

1 impacts that can benefit our people, whether they're elders or
2 the younger people, such as child daycare centers, elders place
3 where they can have their own lunch instead of going to the
4 high school, a teenage center. Much of these god-given things
5 which you take for granted everyday in your separate places of
6 residence. We're still living in honey buckets, like our
7 elders say. All of that's coming, but we're also being
8 shortchanged by the -- there is people that is supposed to
9 speak and secure the funding for us. So where is the rest of
10 the money going to come from to finish it up?

11 Subsistence, which our people will never get away
12 from, whether we're working and give it to us, or the husband
13 works or the wife works, there's -- it's good. For some of us
14 that are single, we have to work. But the time off we get, we
15 get shares from our relatives, such as fish and meat. But you
16 have to also realize that we cannot get away from that economy
17 much less degrading ourselves in asking for public assistance.

18 Much of the studies that the federal government has
19 done on the Inupiat of the Arctic Slope is very depressing.
20 They seem inadequate. It's outdated. Much of your studies
21 seem to lean on the local -- the entire economic benefit of the
22 United States of America. You don't have no concern for little
23 places like Nuiqsut or some other places.

24 Well, guess what, we have learned to deal with your
25 various different agencies, because some of us are educated.

1 We're bilingual. We can speak Inupiat. We can speak English.
2 Much less, we try very hard to communicate with our elders,
3 even though it puts us in a position where we end up with a lot
4 of stress and hard feelings, but we have to work that way.

5 My extension to Knowles' office is to secure direct
6 impact funds to the community -- most impacted community here
7 in the Arctic Slope, whether it's in the ocean, whether it's on
8 land, such as NPR-A, which I hear that the North Slope Borough
9 and other communities do not want to share what's rightfully
10 been given and allocated in some of their books that this
11 community won't be secured some funds.

12 Now, that has yet to come. I respect the elders for
13 speaking up. Some of the younger ones here, residents, it is
14 always good to try to represent some of the people here in the
15 community. But it is not much harder when there is no direct
16 feedback from the various statements that we give to the -- to
17 various agencies. Like the lady said, all you do is study on
18 it, put it in black and white, and when you get what you want,
19 that's it. Only then put -- where are the things that we
20 talked about? Where is the guarantee that securing a fund
21 that's supposed to be coming towards the community? Enough.

22 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: I wish we could guarantee
23 those funds.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One last week, there was some
25 of those.

1 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: That's fine. I -- again.

2 (Interpreter translating)

3 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Knowing that the MMS is under the
4 federal government under the OCS, that's true. Anyway, ma'am,
5 could you correct me?

6 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: (Indiscernible).

7 MR. NUKAPIGAK: That the OCS is under the federal
8 program.

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Right.

10 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Three miles.....

11 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: What we represent is the
12 federal government; that's correct.

13 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MR. ISAAC NUKAPIGAK

14 BY MR. NUKAPIGAK:

15 We have a tribal government. It's rec- -- which is
16 being recognized which is being recognized by the federal
17 government. And I do believe, like I stated earlier, of being
18 taxed, one cent be utilized through out tribal organization by
19 the federal government where some of thee services that can be
20 covered like you had heard a lot of -- there is testimony has
21 been done of who much impact this community has been impacted,
22 whether through land or where to the Beaufort Sea. And the
23 proposed opening of the NPR-A by the federal government.

24 Like what you heard from our respected elders and
25 our -- most of our community leaders, once again, I'm going to

1 have to say strongly that the message being sent to your
2 various agencies in Washington, D.C., that time to break the
3 shell now for impact funds that this community can utilize.

4 There's so much potential effect just looking over
5 some of what the draft EIS that you guys put together. There's
6 so much potential impact of the Inupiat livelihood. That is
7 going to be very -- impact to our community.

8 I'm not only talking to myself, I'm talking about
9 I've got a little boy here who is going to carry on my
10 tradition and their tradition. They're the ones that is going
11 to be impacted. How come that now that the federal
12 government -- MMS needs to start considering strongly that
13 these impact funds should come direct to this community instead
14 of going through our local municipality local government. Like
15 what some of our people have stated that it's hard trying to
16 get our share of our revenue.

17 Especially with the State revenue-sharing is
18 declining and the possibility that it's going to be eliminated,
19 this doesn't -- the legislatures are considering eliminating
20 the public init- -- assistance program which is going to hurt
21 this community. That's part of the whole slope, this community
22 is the one that has the highest bank electric kilowatt use.
23 And with that, the legislature is planning to eliminate the
24 DAC, I mean this community could be hurt very strongly.

25 It's like -- the people here -- 40, 45 percent of

1 this community is on the seasonal jobs. And it's hurt --
2 especially when you have a family trying to provide.
3 Especially being a topic of the Western culture.
4 (Indiscernible.) In order to be able to provide some of the
5 resources that we need to provide to our daily diet.

6 We're -- this community is the one that's going to
7 be -- have been and will continue being impacted, being in the
8 middle of oil discoveries. Our -- especially with the ^{NPR-A}MPIA,
9 that's -- if that's to ever to happen to open up, too, that's
10 going to hurt this community. We've been diverted from our
11 hunting grounds ever since Prudhoe Bay was discovered and
12 Kuparuk. So much fri- -- stipulations and regulations and
13 proposals that has been imposed to us. This is what I see is
14 going to happen if this lease sale once ever to proceed or any
15 other future lessees that's going to hold -- that's going to
16 take place.

17 It's been there where the oil industries will make
18 some reg- -- damn crazy regulations. We need to be considered
19 strongly on our impact. That should consider coming directly
20 to our tribal organization. The UB council that we are -- our
21 tribal organization is recognized by the federal government.
22 It's time -- now is the time to go ahead and break the shell.
23 (Speaking in Inupiat.)

24 That's why I want to it going -- be brought back;
25 that message be sent to Washington D.C., office.

1 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: We will definitely forward
2 that. And you can also work through your federal congressman
3 and state legislatures also. It can work both directions.

4 MR. NUKAPIGAK: I think it's about time that it's
5 time to open the shell.

6 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Right.

7 MR. GOLL: Honestly, though, MMS does not have the
8 authority to do that. It really does take an act of Congress
9 to get the impact assistance, in other words, trying.....

10 MR. NUKAPIGAK: I think you're overlooking something
11 here. Your brochure indicates that partnership with tribes,
12 state and local benefits. That's your department. You can't
13 say it's not yours.

14 MR. GOLL: But we cannot do it unless Congress lets
15 us do it. Now, maybe there is some other way that we haven't
16 seen like what's related to the tribal villages or something.

17 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Also what is this draft of OCS
18 regional advisory committee?

19 MR. GOLL: Okay. That is the thing that Thomas
20 Napageak is part of. So, you know, that group can also make
21 recommendations along this line. You know, again to get the
22 message, again, reinforced, of what you're saying. Because
23 it's -- believe me, if we can.....

24 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Maybe another good way to bring it
25 out, too, is to form -- maybe a possibility among the three or

1 the two communities, a subsistence like when we already do with
2 ^{ALPAC} (ph). A substance resource panel that could monitor.

3 That people -- where people can make.....

4 (Off record)

5 (Tape Change - Tape No. 2 of 3, Side B)

6 (On record)

7 MR. NUKAPIGAK:where there is anything impact
8 that needs to be done, that we can monitor -- have these people
9 monitor the interests of how much impact that can be monitored
10 at. See, what's the most impacted species have been impacted.

11 MR. GOLL: Okay.

12 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Because these are -- especially when
13 are -- especially when these goes -- and the lease will
14 proceed. There is so much that oil industries need to go
15 through various agencies to get their permits, whether it's air
16 pollution, water, air, quality control; the whole works. And
17 it has to go through the North Slope Borough Coastal Management
18 Program to be able to get their permits, too.

19 If we set up a panel to monitor our resources, people
20 were -- this panel can -- where the community can rely on, say
21 this is what's going on out there. This is how much we impact.
22 There's some habitat and stuff that's being harassed, that can
23 monitor and goes to the federal government and say, "Hey, we
24 got a problem out here that's needs to be addressed."

25 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: But I'm confused. How would

1 that get your impact assistance funds? I'm -- maybe I'm
2 missing a point here. I.....

3 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Well, I'm.....

4 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: I'm trying to figure out how
5 to tie this to what you said?

6 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Well, maybe put into your -- part of
7 your EIS, that the oil industry might get the leases -- the
8 lease grant by putting funds to approach the program to
9 monitor.

10 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: I see.

11 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Unless the federal government wants
12 to take the tab or putting some stipulations on the.....

13 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: In other words, you're saying
14 the company would pay the monitoring panel?

15 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Right. Putting some stipulation down
16 this draft EIS, say, this is what we would like to see -- the
17 community would like to see.

18 MR. GOLL: If there has been instances at times where
19 there has been certain stipulations that require the companies
20 to monitor certain activities that are going on.

21 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Well.....

22 MR. GOLL: And likewise, sometimes they pay.....

23 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Well, you need.....

24 MR. GOLL: Sometimes we end up paying.

25 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Well, you need to ^{know} ~~the no~~ the

1 *traditional*
judicial local knowledge.

2 MR. GOLL: Okay. That's -- again, I think we took a
3 little step that way.....

4 MR. NAPAGEAK: I think I understand where he's coming
5 from. The OCS overseeing panel was set up before the whole.
6 But he is talking about the local community.

7 MR. NUKAPIGAK: The local.

8 MR. NAPAGEAK: The heavily impact. I think he is
9 only trying to get one step ahead, which I think is very
10 appropriate, because after lease here, okay, that's part.

11 MR. NUKAPIGAK: That's under our role.

12 MR. NAPAGEAK: West of here.

13 MR. NUKAPIGAK: West from here.

14 MR. NAPAGEAK: (Indiscernible.)

15 MR. GOLL: Maybe using an example of the stipulation
16 we have with regard to effects on the bowhead whale during
17 exploration. Again, there is the opportunity there. Right now
18 it's worded where the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the
19 North Slope Borough to put their input.....

20 MR. NUKAPIGAK: I'm not just talking about other --
21 only the bowhead, I'm talking about other species of marine
22 mammal.

23 MR. GOLL: Yeah, I understand.

24 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Or.....

25 MR. GOLL: I was just using that as an example.

1 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Or the waterfowl. Or different
2 habitats of fish, that needs to be considered monitored of
3 where.....

4 MR. GOLL: Okay.

5 MR. NUKAPIGAK:where's the impact or say this
6 is what's going on. Then that needs to be looked into. Say,
7 we've got a problem. That way this community that rely on the
8 resources comes -- can come to this panel and say, 'There's a
9 problem out there.'

10 MR. GOLL: Who would fund the panel?

11 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Either putting it to the draft EIS or
12 the federal government could take the tab or we could have the
13 industry take the tab. Whoever grants the lease and holds a
14 productive oil within our lease can fund that or putting some
15 sort of stipulation in your EIS. Say, this is what we want.

16 MR. GOLL: I hear what you're getting at.

17 MR. NUKAPIGAK: But again, I'm.....

18 MR. WALKER: Isaac, is the program that was set up
19 for Alpine, that's a good model?

20 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Oh, yeah, that's a -- I think that
21 would be a good model. But we're just going to have to see --
22 wait and see and.....

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Looks good on paper. But it
24 hasn't been tried.

25 MR. NUKAPIGAK: It will -- we'll see until it goes

1 into production and see how the programs can work.

2 MR. GOLL: Okay. So.....

3 MR. NUKAPIGAK: But once again, you know, I'm going
4 to have to say that again one more time, that it's about time
5 that we break the shell.

6 (Interpreter and Mr. Nukapigak translating)

7 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Well, we can't solve this
8 tonight. But what we can do is check in to see just how the
9 Alpine thing works and get some feedback on it. I can't
10 promise you that there is anything coming. But we can check
11 into it and see how it works and see what the -- what's there
12 and if there is any way that we can apply something similar
13 along the same lines to something on our side. I can't promise
14 anything, because I don't know enough about the workings of it.

15 MR. NUKAPIGAK: You know, I think it can be done if
16 this lease sale 170 is going to proceed.

17 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: We can check into it. But
18 that's all I can say, because I don't know enough about how it
19 works. But if you think the Alpine is a good example, we will
20 go check into how that works and see if there is anything that
21 can be applied. Right off the top of my head, I don't know of
22 anything. But I certainly wouldn't want to state that.....

23 (Mr. Nukapigak translating)

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. We'll do some looking
25 into it. But I can't promise anything because this might be

1 beyond our capabilities.

2 MR. GOLL: Could I ask a question with regard -- the
3 OCS in the near future, probably within the next five years or
4 more, again, likely there will be only two developments that we
5 will be involved in. That will be North Star and Liberty. Is
6 concern really more global than that, including again, all the
7 things on shore and off-shore, such that this subsistence panel
8 would be more useful for everything going on in the area?

9 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Yeah, just looking -- yeah. Just
10 looking at the Section 3(c)(10), where this community.....

11 MR. GOLL: Yeah.

12 MR. NUKAPIGAK:to their harvesting. It goes
13 beyond your proposed sale.

14 MR. GOLL: And it's everything?

15 MR. NUKAPIGAK: It goes beyond the NPR-A. And
16 eventually that NPR-A is going to open up.

17 MR. GOLL: And that would be a concern also that the
18 subsistence panel could....

19 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Right. To oversee the activity.

20 MR. GOLL: That would mean we could work up a joint
21 thing with ARCO and.....

22 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Probably make more sense, you
23 know, talking a subsistence panel to consider the entire area
24 rather than little pieces. Something that maybe we can work
25 with the state.

1 MR. NUKAPIGAK: That's right. I think that could be
2 done with even like combining the federal and the state level.
3 Even though there is the -- the state has the subsistence
4 resource panel to regulate. I mean, I' talk- -- it's going to
5 be different. That we can look -- where people can make
6 complaints to this panel to address some of these issues
7 instead of trying to regulate the mammals or any waterfowl,
8 just there to help. Should I say maybe to help monitor. There
9 would be no enforcement by this panel. Just a people -- a
10 panel that could be together to monitor the impacts of our
11 resources.

12 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: This meeting that we're going
13 to have our new advisory committee, we might bring that up
14 before them to see if they can give -- to see if they can come
15 up. Because it's going to have industry, state and North Slope
16 Borough representatives; all three. We might see if they can
17 come up with an idea. Thomas will be there and we'll see if
18 we -- of what they might suggest on something. But it sounds
19 like it is something that might be able to be worked out
20 jointly with everybody here.

21 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Uh-huh (affirmative).

22 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: I think that might --
23 something might be able to be worked out there. We'll give
24 that committee something to chew on there for a little while to
25 see if they come up with something.

1 MR. NUKAPIGAK: I mean, because I know that state has
2 their own subsistence resource panel -- committee that impose
3 and regulate. I mean, it come- -- it would be different
4 than -- the state's or the federal. It's going to be the
5 people that can help monitor the impact. And then.....

6 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay.

7 MR. NUKAPIGAK:and maybe this is what's been
8 done -- this is what our resources has been damaged and we
9 could apply for our impact funds or that the impact would
10 cover.

11 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Right. Okay.

12 MR. NUKAPIGAK: I just don't have nothing else.

13 MR. GOLL: All right. Thank you.

14 MR. WALKER: Way back you were talking about
15 kilowatts. And you mentioned Kaktovik or Nuiqsut and then you
16 said something, PAC was being eliminated? What is that?

17 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Yeah, the state legislatures -- it's
18 been on the talk of eliminating the public assistance program.

19 MR. WALKER: All right. In other words, just public
20 assistance commission or something like that?

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: The Public Assistance
22 Commission?

23 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Yeah, that's going to be -- it's been
24 on a talk by the legislatures that they're trying to eliminate
25 that.

1 MR. WALKER: Okay.

2 MR. NUKAPIGAK: And it's going to hurt -- especially
3 the people that are living here on the slope are going to be --
4 that will be hurt bad. Having the high cost of heating fuel,
5 the high cost of electricity.

6 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Yeah. Thanks. Thank you.
7 Anybody else?

8 (Pause - Side conversation)

9 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MR. THOMAS NAPAGEAK

10 BY MR. NAPAGEAK:

11 The overall effects on subsistence on the communities
12 of Barrow, Nuiqsut and Kaktovik are very much felt are
13 expecting to be at least two to five years. And that's the
14 question that keeps coming up. What happens then? They are
15 coming out with impact questions, of impact questions. You
16 can't even bring it out at this time. And that's -- it's right
17 here. And that's where he's coming from. (Speaking in
18 Inupiat.) You're talking about banoka (ph) whales, walrus and
19 all kinds of sea birds. And it's going to effect them two to
20 five years. (Speaking in Inupiat). I'm just going to
21 translate what I said earlier, maybe do that. (Speaking in
22 Inupiat).

23 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MS. ROSEMARY AHTUANGARUAK

24 BY MS. AHTUANGARUAK:

25 My name is Rosemary. I wanted to add a few points.

1 In the past we have worked with many different people and there
2 were a lot of issues raised and said that would be dealt with.
3 And many of those issues were just acknowledged and never acted
4 on.

5 You all are now continuing to work with us over these
6 developments. You have to create that trust in order to get us
7 to work with you. We already know how much our federal
8 government cares about us. We have been used as guinea pigs
9 before. We do not easily give in to working with you all even
10 though some of the work we do will be beneficial.

11 Some of the people that are working towards doing
12 this development are at the interests of the people that will
13 be effected. But more of these people that are working to do
14 this development are at the work of making sure the oil
15 companies get the development.

16 There are many people that hear the concerns just to
17 notify all the companies that we have some obstacles that need
18 to be hurdled before this deadline is met. So we have concerns
19 about raising some of these issues.

20 We already know how much we can give to trying to
21 help us stop being damaged from these developments. But we
22 give so many times just to have it turned back into an enabler
23 for the development to occur. That's a hurdle that needs to be
24 slowly addressed because it's not something we are readily
25 willing to give any more.

1 Some of us talk. More of us would like to, but many
2 of us have been burned because we did talk. So now you have
3 that fire to put out.

4 And I wish we could openly talk and know that our
5 concerns would be heard and brought to the people who will make
6 the difference to help us. But it's a reality that won't come
7 any time soon, probably not again in my lifetime. And I wish
8 we could, but there's been too many people hurt by it. And
9 it's real hard to try to keep helping our great government when
10 they continue to hurt us.

11 There's a lot of good our government does for us. We
12 acknowledge that good. But we also hesitantly work with it
13 from now on.

14 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Go ahead.

15 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MR. JOSEPH AKPIK

16 BY MR. AKPIK:

17 I want to talk in Inupiat. (Speaking in Inupiat.) I
18 wanted to ask if he can write out -- give me a federal grant
19 writer in your office or a grant administrator?

20 MR. GOLL: I don't think we have grant authority.

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: We don't have.....

22 MR. AKPIK: Do you have a grant administrator in your
23 office? Maybe you could give me.....

24 MS. MAYER: What is it for?

25 MR. AKPIK: Well, I'm looking for the -- getting some

1 of these grants that are available within the -- that will be
2 impacted by our -- these sales and all of these -- and we're
3 trying to reach some of these funds. I do believe we could get
4 a grant somewhere in the federal level or state government.
5 Can you recall your grant administrator from your governor's
6 office?

7 MS. MAYER: There are several grant authorities
8 around. I didn't know what you were discussing to.....

9 MR. AKPIK: Well, I'm trying to say is get some
10 grants that will provide the community needs that we have here.
11 This is what I'm trying to reach out.

12 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: We don't have the authority
13 and I don't think -- the only one I know of, BIA has grant
14 authority, I think, to some extent, don't they? But I don't
15 know anything about it.

16 MR. GOLL: I think EPA.

17 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: EPA has some.

18 MS. MAYER: Well, there's a lot of grants around. I
19 mean, we just -- I don't know if you think we're going to give
20 you the name of a grant person as in natives that are
21 responsive to communities' needs?

22 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Right. I don't think you understand.
23 I'm speaking about funds to a grant. We know what grants are
24 all about. You're just going to shortchange the community if
25 you don't find a lot of grants. That's what we -- that's what

1 there for.

2 MR. AKPIK: But I think Isaac brought up the right
3 idea about impacts on us. That would take the process about
4 three years to get this impact statement for our funds. It
5 takes about that -- more than three to five years. Look at
6 that NPR-A impact funds that they got after about almost ten
7 years. I was involved in that impact fight that we had with
8 that NPR-A. (Speaking in Inupiat.)

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: I don't think we can settle
10 the fund issue here because we don't have that authority and we
11 don't -- we can't -- we can elevate it, but we can't do
12 anything about it immediately. So I would like to get back to
13 the EIS and the public hearing, if we could, because I can't
14 help that part of it that we're talking about.

15 So we can let it be known, but if we could go on with
16 the -- is there anybody else that would like to testify on the
17 EIS or sale 170? If.....

18 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MS. ROSEMARY AHTUANGARUAK

19 BY MS. AHTUANGARUAK:

20 I just want to make the comment that I think there is
21 two points of view that many of us have here. There's the view
22 of us that discussing these issues at these meetings will help
23 prevent the development. And there's the views of those that
24 have been doing it for many years and realize this will not
25 stop anything.

1 If the government wants to line their pockets with a
2 development that will occur and giving them that funds from the
3 sale, they're going to do what they're going to do. And they
4 acknowledge that. And they do know the only way they could get
5 help for us is to focus on those impact funds. That's the
6 reality of what we're doing here.

7 Some of us keep hoping we can continue talking and
8 these will be heard. But more of us acknowledge that no matter
9 what we say, if the government wants that development, it's
10 going to happen, because there's not enough of us here to put a
11 wall up to stop it. There aren't enough of us here to fly down
12 to D.C., fly down to Juneau and do all of these meetings all
13 the time that have to come up in order to stop it at every
14 roadblock. That's the reality.

15 But we view it from different viewpoints. We know --
16 we keep saying that some of us will be heard, and maybe it will
17 be just that, enough to get us some help. And it's -- we want
18 to keep working with you, some of us do. Others of us just
19 want to say, "Okay, the meeting's over. Get us our funds."

20 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Well, that's one of the
21 reasons we're here. But I'm not going to tell you we can't --
22 we're going to do something we can't do.

23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We understand that.

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: So it's a -- I just want to
25 be sure that we're as honest as we can be with what we're -- is

1 there anybody else that would like to comment on sale 170?

2 Yes?

3 MR. NAPAGEAK: I want to just to question the lady
4 from the Governor's Office. Are you listening? Will all these
5 conversations be transferred to the villages?

6 MR. WALKER: I might add that the governor has
7 requested that there be impact funds in the past. He has
8 carried that thought forward, too.

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Any other comments on 170?

10 MR. NAPAGEAK: I would like to say one more thing.

11 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. Ruth had her hand up
12 first, so.....

13 MS. NUKAPIGAK: (Speaking in Inupiat.)

14 MR. NAPAGEAK: Her starting comment was that all
15 these years since the government was putting up public
16 hearings, public hearing meetings, people have come from oil
17 industry and states and the federal government. Meetings and
18 more meetings. We talk and we talk. Nowhere -- knowing where
19 our words went.

20 Now she's got -- she's sort of confused a little bit
21 because of Minerals Management being here. We got the state
22 and we've got the federal. She wants to know how big is this?
23 I mean, how big is it? What is the main purpose of it?

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. The main purpose of
25 what we're talking about tonight is.....

1 MR. NAPAGEAK: Her main purpose -- her main
2 question.....

3 HEARING OFFICER BROCK:it's only the off shore.

4 MR. NAPAGEAK:is the state and the federal
5 department are participating. I mean, (indiscernible).

6 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. We are the federal --
7 Mineral Management is in the federal government. So there's
8 only one federal government here. And the state came -- well,
9 I assume to see what we're doing.

10 MR. GOLL: What I think what we have heard tonight,
11 again, of course, is that it's not just the federal things
12 going on, it's not the state, it's sort of the combination of
13 it all that's really affecting the community.

14 (Mr. Napageak and Mr. Nukapigak speaking in Inupiat)

15 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Do we know what they said
16 or -- further comments?

17 MR. NAPAGEAK: Hearings after hearings after hearings
18 and I just explained to her about this draft environmental
19 impact statement. It's a draft. You've got two more to come
20 up. Isn't that correct? One more or so. (Speaking in
21 Inupiat.)

22 Now, because everybody is talking here, she is
23 wondering our words will appear in that final draft? That's
24 her concern. She said maybe it's better because we've been
25 talking so much about lease sales, it's good that we don't even

1 speak, because you don't put up our words anyway.

2 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: All of the hearing will be
3 recorded and part of the final -- an appendix to the final. So
4 it will all be there.

5 MR. NAPAGEAK: (Speaking in Inupiat.) However, I was
6 called in by Tom Logan, was it? Yeah, Tom Logan called me up
7 and told me that it would be very important that I participate.
8 That's for you. I want to explain to you first, Rosemary.
9 Because of all the testimonies that we have been testifying
10 does never show in the -- we kind of think that they don't show
11 in the draft of EIS. Now, with my participation, the
12 testimonies that are given tonight will be discussed in a table
13 where I will be a participant, and I appreciate that very much.

14 (Speaking in Inupiat.) I was just explaining
15 something about participation.

16 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: And then there will be a
17 response in the final EIS to the concerns raised. So that,
18 too, will be in.

19 Do we have any other comments? Well, it's 10:30.

20 MS. MAYER: Can I just make a comment?

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: You bet.

22 MS. MAYER: And if you would explain. Because I'm
23 here from the governor's office, I just want there to be any
24 confusion about this meeting. This meeting is a federal
25 meeting on federal resale. But I was here -- I was in Barrow

1 on business yesterday and this meeting was today, so I took
2 advantage just to come here and provide for this experience in
3 Nuiqsut and to meet the people that are here. So while your
4 comments.....

5 MR. NAPAGEAK: Before -- I just want to before
6 you.....

7 MS. MAYER: Oh, okay.

8 MR. NAPAGEAK: (Speaking in Inupiat.)

9 MS. MAYER: So for me it's been very beneficial to
10 hear things and learn from everybody in this perspective. And
11 I can assure you that what I've learned I'll take back to
12 Juneau and discuss with people, not only for what the state,
13 comments to the federal government, but to help understanding
14 they way you feel as well.

15 MR. NAPAGEAK: (Speaking in Inupiat.)

16 MS. MAYER: So I just want to say thank you for
17 letting me be here and maybe if I'm doing my job, it will be
18 one less meeting next time.

19 (Laughter)

20 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Well, I do appreciate all you
21 coming out tonight. And with that, we will close the meeting
22 and thank you very much for bringing this nice sunshine today.

23
24 (Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned at 10:36 p.m.)
25

TABLE OF CONTENTS - NUIQSUT

<u>PUBLIC TESTIMONY</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Mr. Thomas Napageak	9/53
Mr. Isaac Nukapigak	10/41
Ms. Lucy Ahvakana	15
Ms. Ruth Nukapigak	22
Mr. Joseph Akpik	23/55
Ms. Rosemary Ahtuanguaruk	28/53/57
Mr. Mark Ahmakak	37

Sale 170

Translation given 7/25/'97, completed 7/29/'97 am.
Minerals Management Service Hearings in Nuiqsut

Hearing date: 6/24/'97

Side A:

I am going to talk in Iñupiaq. She always comes to the meetings and she says she saw some of you for the first time. And she says there's no caribou this year. In the years past, there's hardly any caribou anymore. Why?

As a Eskimo, she did care since she was a child. And she's worried about the fish, if there will be any fish, seal, bearded seal. And if they do seismic on the ocean, she's worried about the food for the whale in the ocean. She's afraid if their food will be damaged. The fish are coming in right now from the ocean and in the Fall, the fish will be going out. And the meat that we buy from the store is real expensive. And she says she likes to hunt fish and birds. And there's lots of birds at Uuliktuq.

And finally, the caribou got here a couple of days ago. And she's worried about our caribou, fish. She can't survive only with whale. And she doesn't want our food damaged or the oil or gas leaks spoil or kill our food. And in wintertime, we use the ice roads. They use water from the lakes where the fish are. She is really concerned about fish and the caribou and the whale. Thank you. Ruth Nukapigak.

Speaker after Mark Ahmakak: (Did not state his name. Speaks English in the beginning for a good while at the end of the tape, side A.)

This is to emphasize on the money which could be greatly beneficial to our village. We hear of impact funds that come directly from the Lease Sales that are paid but they are sent instead to our local government, namely the North Slope Borough which is based out of Barrow, Alaska, and as a result it denies our village from receiving all of the impact funds when, in fact, our village was the community to feel the impact of the lease sales. Money that is sent to the North Slope Borough is distributed as well to the other communities when it should have gone directly to our village here, not to the other villages!

I am telling those who came here for the hearing that it is time to open it up. Our village has its own tribal government. What the Federal Government is proposing to do through the MMS should be opened up by working through our tribal government. Let's learn to

take the opportunities that come our way because this one here has the potential to help the people in the long run.

The following is from side Side B, about 1/8 inches into the tape:

Female speaker(did not say her name):

"I believe that our Corporation (ASRC) is taking advantage of us. Before the villages ever get to know what is happening, ASRC goes right ahead and approves without the consent and knowledge of the village where the lease sales are taking place."

(Interrupted by a man. He does not say his name but he spoke previous to her.):

"The North Slope Borough's operating funds come from what is called Impact funds. Once it gets in the hands of the Borough, it is then distributed from there according to their by-laws to the villages. That is the reason why I'm saying that they should send the money to Nuiqsut as we have a tribal government right here in Nuiqsut. The federal government already recognizes our tribal government. These people that are here trying to get a lease sale started work for the federal government. Let's try and see if the funds can go directly to our village as opposed to the North Slope Borough as a whole and make it work for the village of Nuiqsut because by doing it the way that I'm recommending, it's going to benefit our village."

(Female speaker taking over.):

First sentence is inaudible.: I have been listening to you people having your discussions since they began. The tribal government here has not begun functioning like it ought to. I have heard that they don't even have regular meetings to discuss community affairs."

(Male speaker who spoke previous is talking again.):

That's why I'm saying that we should work through our tribal government to solve this matter to make it beneficial for our village. Because our village here, Nuiqsut, is the village that is feeling the impact over the rest of the villages since the start of the Oil & Gas Lease Sales.

(Female speaker): Let me give you a word of advise. You are talking to the elders here. You all have to work toward one goal without fighting each other. Start working together. Those in authority in Barrow have to work so that everyone is benefitted. I have heard rumors that there aren't even meetings held and that they don't have an office where they can conduct their business today. (Next sentence is inaudible.) That is what I've been hearing since I came to listen. I am home taking care of my husband and as a result I don't really see what all is really going on.

(Male speaker): (?) just said it is going to get going. Once it gets underway and is operating to its full potential, we will get to the point where we will begin to take care of things like that and make them work for our village.

(female speaker): (Inaudible.) You all have to begin working on it.

(another female): Apparently the people selected to those tribal government positions have resigned.

(Male speaker): I also said if any oil is found from this Lease Sale, they need to find us a representative who can report for us if the game is being impacted negatively or if the hunters will run into difficulties finding game due to the impact of the oil discovery. And report any findings to those of us in the village. The Subsistence Panel can enact in such a way that we aren't kept from any negative findings that can affect our environment, that include our game that we subsist off of. I am asking that a panel be formed who would be charged with the responsibility of hiring someone that would report any findings that may affect the animals that we subsist off of and anything else that would affect our environment. Either have the oil companies or the federal government fund it so that it is followed through.

(Different male speaker): What Isaac was just talking about was that if there were to be an oil spill, what would be impacted are the beluga whales, walrus, and all kinds of sea birds. And it's going to affect them two to five years. We all have to thank Isaac for bringing up a very important point in what he was just saying.

(Another male who had spoke in English earlier): Just a little while ago I spoke in English mainly to make sure that they really understood what my concerns were. When I think of the word impact and translate it into Iñupiaq Eskimo, it is that very thing that affects a person, place, or thing directly in a negative way. It can also mean to be affecting in a positive way too depending on what situation you have. That's the meaning of impact.

The Federal and the State governments both talk about having money set aside for those villages who are impacted environmentally to compensate for the damage or loss to the community and its environment. That is how I understand it. Knowing that, it has been a long time now since I hoped our community would not face anything like that. At this present time the situation is good and we still need to monitor it very closely. Whether it be the land or the ocean whenever the Federal Government begins to get involved, the way that I understand it is that it gives the responsibility to the State for taking care of whoever it is that is affected negatively by something that the Federal Government started and was responsible for in the beginning. I have also said that I was fed up with communicating my concerns on paper. Every time that we come to give our concerns,

they're right there ready to tell us what to do, etc. Why is it that we just come here to talk? All they do is store our concerns away that they've documented on paper without doing anything about them. That's what I'm telling them. Looking at our land and the ocean and the Lease Sale that they're just now getting started with, there has to be the unknown (the future things that can impact our land and the ocean negatively and our subsistence way of life) that we don't know is some time down the road. They've already mentioned the positive side of the Lease Sale, they are not physically evident to us.

The Lease Sale may get going in time but there are going to be numerous impacts to our ocean that affect both positively and negatively our way of life, our children, or to our lifestyle. That's what they refer to as impact. I want my comments given especially since the Governor's Assistant is here right now. Whether it is through the NPRA or through drilling in the ocean, there is no way that we Eskimos have the power to stop the issue of drilling for oil. We're fed up with the Borough and the State and we can no longer tolerate what we have had to endure about the oil and gas issue that has affected our village. This is due to the requests that we made time and time again that have never been granted when we have tried to work with them. What we have heard is that it is difficult for them to do what we've requested of them. What I see is that they see themselves as being in the right. When we voice our concerns for our way of life, the potential impact on our land as well as the ocean and they heed our concerns, what we've been saying all this time will become fully understood and our village is the one that is going to be the village that feels the impact and not the other villages. We need to work together old and young alike to make sure our concerns are not taken lightly as our concerns affect our way of life as Iñupiaq people. Thank you.

Joseph Akpik: I'm going to talk in Iñupiaq. We're talking about Impact Funds. I'm going to ask the Grant Writer/Administrator, Federal Government and the State government a question and I thank Isaac for talking a little while ago about the Grants. I think if we were to get a Grant writer who would work for the City and the Corporation, it may be beneficial in that something good may come out of it that would serve our people well. We can get a grant just by filling out this piece of paper. It's evident that it has a lot of money. The State of Alaska has vast amounts of money. The same with the Federal Government for such purposes. We can find a way to get money by hiring a Grant Writer. We, too, can get assistance in that way. This can be assistance for our schools, our elders, for our oil to heat our homes which we have not been able to get all these years. We can find a way to get financial assistance by working together and by hiring someone to achieve our needs. (Next sentence is inaudible.) I have not been able to get a house in the three years that I've been here. I, too, desire to have a job like this. I am capable of doing this type of work. If we were to write on a paper like this, we can state what we request in writing for those things that would help us.

The Iñupiaq people do travel. That's right.

(Some other male in the background): Why don't you come back and talk to us that way after you work on getting things right in the village of Atqasuk.

Joseph Akpik: The NPRA has also impacted them.

(Elderly woman): I'm going to answer your comment. Without coming together as a community, nothing can get accomplished.

Joseph Akpik: That's right.

(Same elderly woman): We're all enrolled from different races because we aren't alike. It is imperative that we work together as a village. One more thing that isn't right at all is those who are enrolled and did not make it here are said to be people who don't care enough to be present. I'm not enrolled here but I still come and attend the hearings because I got somebody up there watching over me. I'm peaceful in my little house.

(Another female): It's not necessary for you to talk about what you have just spoken of.

(Same elderly woman): Because unless we come together, nothing can get done. You have to work cooperatively with each other. You guys have to work together. It may not be easy to work it out, it cannot get achieved without us coming together as a whole.

Ruth: I have a real desire to say something at this time. Some of what was said in English I could not understand. It's apparent that these people have not come from one place to come here to Nuiqsut to listen and to get what it is that they're after. They've come to our village so that they can complete the job that they've been assigned to do by their superiors. It's not the first time that Oil Companies and the like have come to our village. This despite our growing concerns and continually by-passing them to get what they want. If they had listened to our concerns in the beginning, they may have already begun what it is that they were after. There have been many times now that they've come to our village and asked us to give our concerns and make us talk. And here they are again, coming here to get us to talk again. Only this time they've brought with them big shots like the Governor's Assistant. What are they going to do with what we've told them again by voicing our concerns? We've been listening to this United States government's employees who have a job that they've been sent to do. Why have they really come? What is their real purpose in coming here? Let Thomas Napageak ask them that question.

(Thomas Napageak translates back to the Iñupiaq people what was just explained by a Federal Govt. Employee what his answer was to Ruth's question, above.)

Ruth: I understand you. We're they shooting to do some seismic testing in July?

Thomas Napageak: No, they're talking about something else.

Ruth: It's about something else?

Thomas Napageak: Yes, they're talking about something else. What they're just showing is what is going to be the early stages of it once it gets going. What will happen next is they will prepare other reports from this that they've brought here to us and later on they will be coming back to show us the results based on this survey. The final draft is going to be the third one that they do.

Ruth: Of that one?

Thomas Napageak: Yes.

Ruth: (Inaudible.)

Thomas Napageak: Yes, the lease sale that they've been talking about.

Ruth: That means that we'll have to do more talking.

Thomas Napageak: Yes, we will most likely end up having to come to do more talking at these hearings because they always have others working for them continually coming with more paper work to bring up for discussion.

Ruth: There comes a time when we lose their trust and cannot believe what they tell us all these years that they've been coming here because there is something that they want and they ask us to come and talk to them at these hearings. To be very honest we have been made to talk so much that it may be okay not to say anymore.

I watch the news from my home on television despite the fact that my knowledge of the English language is limited. And I have watched the President of the United States giving a speech, understanding some of what he says and not understanding some at the same time.

I remember watching on television one day and watching the news about something that had to do with fishing. I was impressed at the quantity of the fish being dumped. I wondered in the back of my mind as I'm watching the news about the fish that our ocean really must have an abundant supply of fish. I have also watched fisherman selling the fish

that they've caught making a lot of money for themselves. Additionally we have also heard of people coming up to our land here to do their fishing and doing the same thing that is seen on television but I find it hard to believe that there could be fishermen up here fishing off of our land. I grew up at a place called Uulikuq and I can recall seeing an abundant supply of whitefish. Same with the Arctic Char. I don't believe what the fishermen have been saying. Translate what I've just said. That's all I'm saying. Thomas Napageak knows how to translate and he'll do it.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

STATE OF ALASKA)
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT) ss.
_____)

I, CINDY S. CARL, do hereby certify:

(1) That the foregoing pages contain a full, true, and correct transcript of proceedings in the above-entitled matter, transcribed by me, or at my direction and supervision, to the best of my knowledge and ability.

(2) That I have been certified for transcript services by the United States Courts.

(3) That I was certified for transcript services by the Alaska Court System prior to January 1, 1993.

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED:

BY: Cindy S. Carl
Cindy S. Carl
Certified Court Reporter

DATE: 7/2/97

